

HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF NEWARK

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NEW DIRECTIONS

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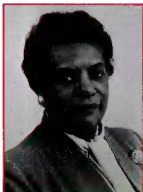
NHA Employee Newsletter

June 1990

Sharpe Choices



Commissioner Charon J. W. Motayne



Commissioner Gloria L. Cartwright



Commissioner Lynell Robinson

Mayor **Sharpe James** has selected **Charon J. W. Motayne**, a certified public accountant, **Gloria L. Cartwright**, a retired corporate executive and community activist, and **Lynell Robinson**, a union business agent to serve as the new NHA commissioners. The mayor has described his choices as "highly qualified residents of Newark."

The commissioners participated in their first NHA board meeting on April 19, 1990. They replace former Commissioners **James Orange**, **Bobbie J.**

Alexander and **William D. Payne** who will be greatly missed for their outstanding achievements at the NHA.

"Commissioners **Orange**, **Alexander** and **Payne** did a fine job while they served the Authority. They are all men of conviction, principle and purpose. Each brought a unique style of management and problem solving to the Board," said **Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.**, NHA Executive Director.

Commissioner **Orange's** contributions to the Authority were many, but he was particularly effective

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New Directions Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Valita Sellers Alvin

Editor
Yvonne Reynolds

**Lay-out &
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Kevin Williams

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Michael Jordan
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Valita Sellers Alvin



Interested in Writing for New Directions ?

Any one interested in submitting an article for New Directions, the NHA's employee/resident oriented newsletter, is welcome to do so. Articles must be typed or legibly handwritten. Topics should be NHA related and of a positive nature. All materials submitted to New Directions will be edited to meet space and appropriate content requirements. For more information, contact Valita Sellers-Alvin, editor, ext. 2212.



NHA holds Law Enforcement Seminar. Read about it in the Briefs Section.

Cover story continued

with youth through his profound knowledge and appreciation of the arts and cultural affairs. He provided musical entertainment and cultural enrichment during last summer with his special concert series which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Commissioner Alexander was a leader in educational pursuits. He spearheaded numerous Scholarship Committee activities and other education-oriented programs at the NHA.

Commissioner Payne worked diligently on behalf of the minority business person.

Dr. Blue said while the former commissioners will be missed, he welcomes the opportunity to work with the newly appointed commissioners and watch the Authority grow under their guidance.

Commissioner Robinson, 51, lived in public housing during the early 1960s. He was formerly the manager of demolition for the city of Newark from 1986 until last year, when he became the business agent for the International Operating Engineers Local 835. Previously, he served as chairman and vice chairman of Newark's Zoning Commission. He replaces

Commissioner Alexander and will serve until 1993.

Commissioner Cartwright, 58, worked for 22 years with AT&T. When she retired in 1985, she was a communications systems analyst with the firm. She is a member of St. Luke's AME Church and has been active in local and district AME events and programs. She served as president of the New Jersey Conference Branch and as president of the Newark District AME Ministers Wives Alliance. She replaces Commissioner Orange and serve until April 20, 1992.

Commissioner Motayne, 32, said she will be looking for increased financial accountability from the NHA. She replaces Commissioner Payne and will serve until 1993. **ND**

Welcome Aboard Commissioners!



NHA/CITY COUNCIL TOUR ATO APARTMENTS

During a walking tour of renovated apartments at Hyatt Court on February 9, 1990, Executive Director Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., other officials from the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) and members of the Newark Municipal Council got to see the work of the NHA's ATO teams firsthand. Council President Henry Martinez and Councilmen George Branch, Ralph T. Grant, Jr., Gary Harris and Donald Tucker all participated in the inspection.

The tour gave the City Council members an opportunity to see how the NHA is implementing the terms of the court settlement agreement reached between the Authority and the Newark Coalition for Low-Income Housing. Since May 1989, the NHA waiting list has been reduced by more than 900 families.

"We had discussions with the residents who have recently been taken off the waiting list and placed into apartments. The real success of our ATO mission can not be measured by bricks and mortar alone. Instead, we demonstrated that the NHA is providing shelter to the low-income residents of Newark who desperately need it," said Dr. Blue.

"The grounds at Hyatt Court were clean and well kept. Manager Stephen Teemer and his staff are to be commended for the fine job they do in keeping Hyatt clean," Dr. Blue added.

During one stop on the tour, Hyatt resident Betzaida Robeas proudly showed off her new apartment. The walking tour included visits to one other apartment that had been renovated and occupied by a family from the NHA waiting list. Both families that were visited moved into the apartments over the last several months.

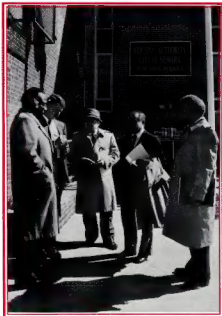
The Council members also learned the NHA has continually met the court settlement requirement to renovate 136 apartments each month since the mandate began on November 1, 1989.

"The effective coordination of all departments within the NHA is evident as we continue to meet this requirement on a monthly basis," Dr. Blue said.

Under the terms of the court settlement agreement, HUD will provide the Authority with \$1.8 million to repair 136 vacant units a month over 12 months. Thereafter, 68 vacant units per month will have to be renovated until all vacant units that require only moderate repair are occupied. The ATO teams are comprised of three groups of skilled tradesmen including carpenters, masons, painters, plumbers and tilemen. **ND**



Dr. Blue holds press conference at Hyatt Court.



Dr. Blue, Joseph Lynch, Dr. Anthony Villone and Sue Ledger Reporter Rudy Larini prepare for a NHA tour.

BRIEFS

- The NHA was awarded a HUD grant in the amount of \$250,000 to conduct a Drug Elimination Program at Stella Wright Homes. NHA competed with 500 other housing authorities across the nation for part of the \$8 million appropriated by HUD to help combat the drug problems in public housing.
- Dr. Blue has been selected to serve as one of the honorary members on the 25th Anniversary Committee for the Newark Pre-School Council, Inc.
- The work for the 1990 NHA Family Picnic is underway. The Committee, headed this year by Director Bill Sirchio, held its first meeting on Fri., Mar. 16, 1990. Last year's NHA Family Picnic at Craigmear Recreation Complex in August was lots of fun. It'll be difficult to do, but here's hoping this year's picnic is even better!
- The NHA held a presentation on its progress regarding the court settlement agreement on Weds., Feb. 14, 1990 at the Quality Inn in Newark. The event was

attended by HUD Newark Office Manager Theodore R. Britton, City Council President Henry Martinez, Councilmen Gary Harris, George Branch, Donald Tucker, Ralph T. Grant, Jr., Sheriff Thomas D'Alessio, County Executive Nicholas Amato and numerous other dignitaries and officials.

- The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) sponsored a two-day workshop in Newark Feb. 9-10. Dr. Blue is president of the New Jersey chapter of NAHRO. Julie Fagan, HUD national director of its Drug-Free Neighborhoods Program, was a featured speaker. Topics included drug legislation, funding available to help eliminate drugs in public housing and eviction of tenants involved in the sale or use of narcotics.

- Former NHA Chairperson Ida Clark was appointed in January to the board of the United Community Corp. She serves as the representative for Councilman Ralph T. Grant, Jr.

- Sometime this spring, The NHA will participate in the Love Newark Campaign by cleaning the grounds of Stella Wright Homes. All NHA staff are encouraged to demonstrate their support of this effort and join us. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jimmy Parrillo, Division of Family Services, at 430-2573, or the public relations staff at 430-2217/2212. We Need Your Support!

- NHA officials held a meeting with law enforcement officials to discuss the problem of crime in public housing on March 12, 1990. An outcome of the meeting was the consensus to form various working committees to address specific problem areas and to determine the appropriate responses. In attendance were Charles Knox, director, Sheriff's Bureau of Narcotics; James Rhodes, chief, Rutgers University Police; Captain Louis Ferriol, Newark Police Department; Captain Leon Bryant, Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Sydney Roberts, coordinator, victim witness program, Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Undersheriff Warren Brothers, Essex County Sheriff's Office; and Lieutenant George Green, Jr., Newark Police Department.

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NEW SECURITY CHIEF JOINS NHA

Combining a childhood dream to work in federal law enforcement and a desire to service the community, Paul Dietrich brings over 20 years of law enforcement experience to his new post as chief of security operations for the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA).

The 45 year-old former U.S. deputy marshal assumed the post on February 5, 1990. He replaced Joseph Foushee, a Newark police detective, who supervised security operations at the NHA for two years after taking a leave of absence from the Newark Police Department.

Dietrich will head and oversee operations for the 106-member security force, including 35 special police officers who will graduate from the Police Academy this spring.

"Dietrich is an impressive professional with many years of law enforcement experience, which will be invaluable to the NHA in our continued efforts to enhance security operations and insure the safety of our residents," said Dr. Blue.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Dietrich's entire career, which spans 20 years, has been devoted to the protection and safety of individuals.

As a U.S. deputy marshal with the U.S. Marshal Service, the oldest and most powerful law enforcement agency in the country, he has protected federal judges, foreign dignitaries and governmental witnesses and helped to locate federal fugitives.

Adept at "anticipating what will happen and preparing for it," Dietrich said that he is ready to assume the challenge of security chief at the NHA.

A native Newarker, Dietrich said, "The greatest challenge for me at the NHA is the opportunity to do something in my hometown that will benefit the

community," he said. "It is no secret that crime is running pretty much rampant and criminals view public housing as a safe haven. I hope to change all that because there are decent people living in public housing."

Already Dietrich has developed a plan of action for the security force. "My first order of business will be to establish good relations with residents and let them know that I have high hopes of enhancing the existing security force which will work in their best interest," he said.

Part of that effort will involve the establishment of a 24-hour hotline to enable residents to provide tips

regarding illegal activity revealing their identity. Dietrich added. "There must be cooperation at all levels in our effort to restore safety at our complexes."

Dietrich has also worked as senior criminal investigator and inspector with the U.S. Marshal Service. Other positions included records identification officer with the Newark Police Department and correction officer at the Essex County Jail.

In recognition of his performance as a U.S. deputy marshal, Dietrich received a special achievement award from the U.S. Department of Justice in March 1989 and commendations from U.S. District Court Judge Vincent L. Broderick in October 1989.

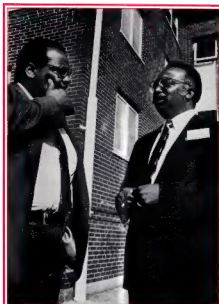
Additionally, Dietrich received the U.S. Marshal Service Director's Award in 1984 for the development of an employment orientation program that prepared inner-city youngsters for the job market in Newark, Trenton and Camden, New Jersey.

Dietrich completed his formal training at the U.S. Department of Treasury and the U. S. Department of Justice where he studied basic and advance deputy training, criminal and fugitive investigator and street survival. Dietrich also studied criminal justice and the social sciences at both Rutgers University and Essex County College.

Continued on back cover



Paul Dietrich, NHA security chief



Dr. Blue and Chief of Staff Ben Quattlebaum discuss media strategies at Hyatt Court.

NHA LAUNCHES RESIDENT AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) has launched a Resident Awareness Program designed to promote resident involvement in the effort to enhance living conditions at public housing complexes.

On February 21, 1990 and March 7, 1990, NHA officials visited Baxter Terrace and Stephen Crane Elderly, respectively, where residents gathered to learn how the NHA is using its resources to combat problems faced by residents, to address their concerns and to make recommendations for improvements.

NHA Executive Director Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., pointed out that the purpose of the meeting "is to establish closer working relations with residents; we are interested in working in a spirit of cooperation."

"I am concerned as to whether you are being serviced in the best way possible and that your concerns

are being addressed," he added. "Additionally, we are interested in improving the quality of life through increased social services, improved maintenance and security and employment opportunities," said Dr. Blue.

Based on the problems expressed by, and recommendations from residents at the meetings, the NHA has assisted Baxter Terrace in creating a Cleanliness Program that centers on the development of a hallway schedule to encourage resident participation in the cleaning process and the removal of graffiti. Special problems are presently being addressed, including repairing front doors, securing empty apartments and installing additional lights on the grounds, said Dr. Blue.

Additionally, special programs, such as a Literacy Program staffed by NHA employees and the creation of resident watch patrols, were also discussed.

"The honesty and sincerity are evident with the present administration," said Oscar Stafford, president of the Baxter Terrace Tenant Association. "If we as residents cooperate with the Authority, we can get the job done," he added.

Subsequently Dr. Blue visited the Stephen Crane Elderly complex where he learned that residents' major concerns were the need for an intercom system to alert residents of visitors and increased security presence. Avowing to correct existing inefficiencies, Dr. Blue added that residents will also be afforded a gardening program and expanded social services such as a health information fair.

"The commitment of my administration is to move in new directions and this meeting is a reflection of that commitment," said Dr. Blue. "Part of that commitment involves our interest in pooling the Authority's resources with residents and law enforcement agencies to help eliminate drug trafficking and drug-related crime," he added.

Dr. Blue was referring to a NHA initiative targeted at increasing the effectiveness of the Authority's effort to eliminate crime in public housing by joining forces with law enforcement officials.

"We appreciated the meeting immensely," said Anthony Rossi, president of the Stephen Crane Elderly Tenant Association. "It was very well coordinated and we are willing to work with the administration in resolving our concerns" he said.

Presentations were provided by several NHA directors and chiefs at both meetings. In addition to NHA officials, NHA Commissioner and Councilman Anthony Carrino attended the meeting at Stephen Crane Elderly.

Follow-up meetings will be held with residents at both sites to discuss progress reports and additional site visitations are scheduled in April with residents at Seth Boyden and Scudder Homes. **ND**

New Directions spotlights: FRANK CICALESSE

by Michael Jordan

Our genial Chief of Central Maintenance Frank Cicalese started his career with the NHA on April 12, 1954. Spanning a period of over 35 years, he has seen many changes and many faces come and go with only a handful of the old-timers remaining.

Mr. Cicalese, 59, began as central maintenance assistant and rose through the ranks to become chief of maintenance in January 1989. Through the years, he has been a knowledgeable trouble shooter who could perform a variety of functions and be sent out wherever his services were needed.

For several years, he worked with the Construction Department doing estimates for the high-rise developments. He also was a field representative for the NHA overseeing the installation and maintenance of new boilers at Columbus Homes, Baxter Terrace, Stella Wright Homes and Kretschmer Homes.

Mr. Cicalese was one of the founders and a teacher in one of the first NHA Training Schools in 1966. Part of that operation involved instructing repairmen for NHA and other housing authorities on maintenance procedures. The school was located at Columbus Homes. Classes were held three hours per day, three days per



week.

Currently, our Chief of Maintenance is active in numerous activities at Sacred Heart Church in the Vailsburg section of Newark where he is a longtime resident. He was past Grand Knight of Council #4066 of the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Toni, enjoy several hobbies, but they especially enjoy cooking on a grand scale. They have four children, and three grandchildren, Michael, 4, Matthew 2 and Samantha, born on December 29, 1989. **—ND**



Anthony Petrozzino, Cosmo Alagna, Frank Cicalese, Peter Doherty, Robert Milan, Robert Marasco, Leonard Jobrack and Gary Mascera, June 1966 NHA's first maintenance training program.

BRIEFS *(continued)*



Resident Betzaida Robas (right) and Family

Security chief story continued from page 5

"The NHA will be depending on Dietrich to increase our eviction of residents involved in drug activities," said Dr. Blue. "He also will be initiating resident anti-crime and resident watch programs," he added.

"The NHA will not tolerate drugs dealers on our property. We are preparing to maximize our resources and institute new programs designed to reduce the incidence of drug-related crime and make our complexes safe again," said Dr. Blue.

Dr. Blue also pointed out that NHA efforts to alleviate crime in public housing will involve "the creation of a network with area law enforcement agencies to work cooperatively with the Authority to increase our effectiveness."

"I am looking forward to working with the NHA," said Dietrich, adding, "I hope to gain the respect and trust of residents who I will be serving and protecting." **ND**

• The Division of Family Services coordinated and participated in a Clean-up Day at Scudder Homes on January 27, 1990. The Division is to be commended for their efforts to enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. Dr. Blue and Councilman George Branch met with Newark Board of Education officials and Central Ward school principals on February 8, 1990 at the Harold Wilson School to plan joint programs to improve the quality of life for students and reduce problems that disrupt the educational process.

• NHA staff representing the Division of Family Services and security participated in the Newark Senior Citizens Commission meeting on February 13th to discuss the NHA's efforts to protect the well-being of seniors who reside in public housing.

• As part of the NHA's emphasis on a drug-free workplace, the Personnel Division sponsored a series of drug awareness workshops for employees during the months of January and February. The guest speaker was George Hicks, New Jersey Attorney General's Narcotics Task Force.

• NHA directors participated in the HUD Quarterly Meeting on March 9, 1990. Discussion focused on the status of the settlement agreement, management issues and CIAP funding.

• Thanks to NHA employees, the Public Employee Charitable Campaign (PECC) was a success! The NHA garnered contributions totalling \$20,802 during the Public Employee Charitable Campaign. When the figures were tallied, the NHA had surpassed its own goal and that of the PECC, which had been set at \$18,100 and \$20,000, respectively. **ND**



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK

57 Sussex Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07103-3992

Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.
Executive Director

Anthony J. Annunzio
Chairman

Commissioners

Charon J. W. Moyzaine Anthony Carrino Wilnora Holman
Gloria L. Cartwright Zinnerford Smith Lynell Robinson

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